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ENVIROUPDATE

KINGS BAY, GEORGIA

Installation Restoration Program Newsletter

May 1994

This newsletter is the first in a series of newsletters which will be provided to the community on a quarterly basis or whenever significant developments in the program occur. Suggestions received during the community interviews indicated that sending information on the environmental programs at Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, through mailouts was very effective. We encourage your feedback on this approach to distributing information to you. For more information, contact Robert Steller, Public Affairs Office, (912) 673-4714.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A draft of this newsletter was available at the public information session held in March 1994. This revised version of EnviroUpdate provides a summary of that meeting and community concerns or questions that were raised during the community interviews conducted in January 1994. The next issue of EnviroUpdate will be mailed to community members in June 1994 and will subsequently be available on a quarterly basis.

Field investigations in the landfill will begin in the summer of 1994. The purpose of these investigations is to locate the source(s) of contamination, if possible. The June 1994 issue of EnviroUpdate will provide additional information regarding this work including the schedule, description of activities and potential impacts to the surrounding area.

SIXTH PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

The Navy hosted their sixth public information session on March 22, 1994 to provide the status of the environmental investigations and cleanup activities at the Old County Landfill site. Interested citizens attended the open house from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Crooked River Elementary School.

The Navy, environmental engineers, regulators and other specialists were available to discuss, on a one-to-one basis, the status of the Old County Landfill site and answer questions on the Naval Submarine

Base's Installation Restoration Program. Informal discussion sessions with graphical displays covered the following topics:

- Community Interviews Results
- Installation Restoration Program
- Regulatory Process
- Status of Investigations
- Interim Cleanup Activities
- Human Health Screening Risk Evaluation

If you were unable to attend the public information session, this newsletter provides information presented at the session. For more information on the status of the environmental program, contact the Public Affairs Office, at (912) 673-4714.

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STATUS OF INVESTIGATIONS

RCRA Facility Investigation

The Final Interim RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Report for the Old County Landfill was completed in December 1993. This report presented the results of three phases of the RFI. The three phases have been ongoing since January 1992 and include:

- RFI field program and bimonthly groundwater sampling,
- Phase I Interim Investigation, and
- Interim Corrective Measure Screening Investigation

The community is encouraged to review this report for a complete status of the investigations to date. A copy will be located at the Information Repository (see page 6) or contact the Public Affairs Office.

Additional environmental investigations will be conducted during the summer and fall of 1994. The Supplemental RCRA Facility Investigation Workplan for this work is scheduled to be approved during the spring of 1994. This supplemental investigation will include the following activities:

- collect surface water and sediment samples from Porcupine Lake;
- excavate test trenches in the landfill to determine the source of contamination, if possible;
- collect surface soil samples in the landfill;
- conduct air monitoring in the landfill and subdivision; and
- two groundwater sampling events.

The next steps in the investigation will be:

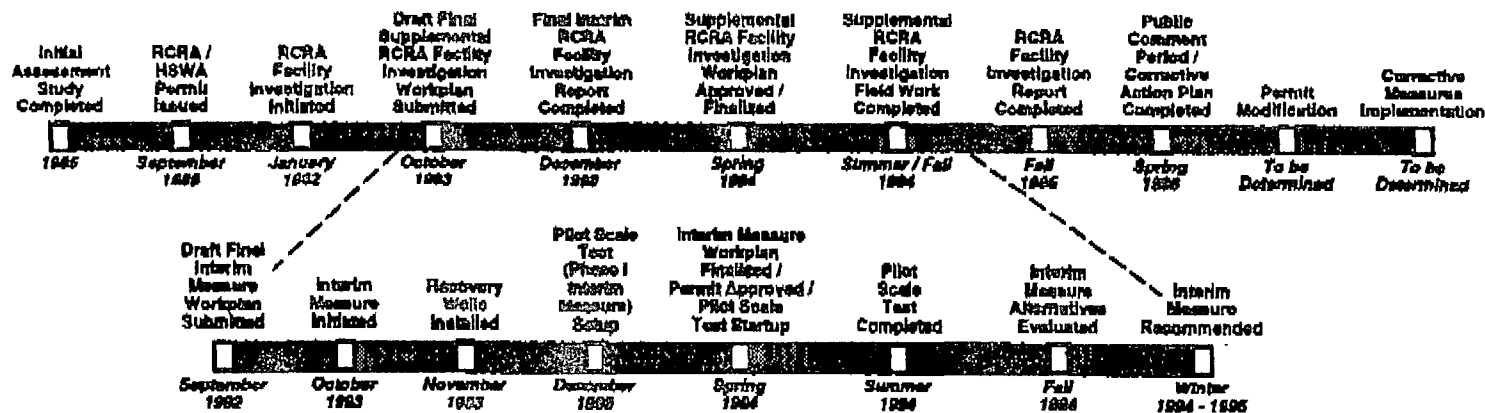
- to interpret data from the supplemental RFI field work to identify possible contamination in media other than groundwater (e.g., soils, sediment, surface water, and air); and
- to support the development of the Health and Environmental Assessment and Corrective Measures Study/ Corrective Action Plan.

Interim Measure

A system is being designed and tested to cleanup the affected groundwater. The first step, called an interim measure, consists of testing two technologies for stopping further movement of the contaminated groundwater and for reducing the level of chemicals found in the groundwater. The two technologies being tested are air stripping and biological treatment. For more information on these technologies and the interim measure, refer to the fact sheet entitled, *Containing and Cleaning Up Contaminated Groundwater from the Old County Landfill*, available from the Public Affairs Office.

The interim measure was initiated in October 1993 and recovery wells installed in November. Setup of the pilot scale test systems (Phase I Interim Measure) was completed in December 1993. The permit was approved and the pilot scale test initiated in late March 1994. The pilot scale test will be conducted over a two month period and is expected to be completed in the summer 1994. A timeline of the environmental cleanup activities, including the RFI and interim measure, is illustrated below.

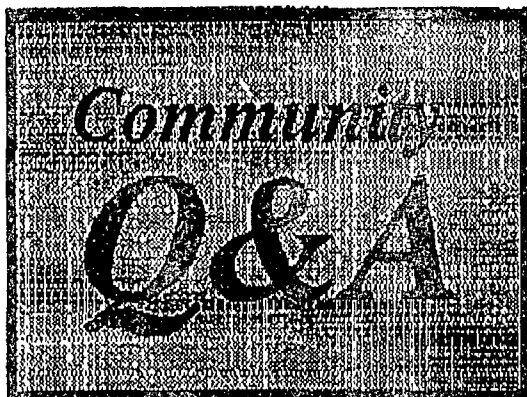
RCRA Corrective Action Process for Site 11, Old County Landfill



Interim Measure Process for Site 11, Old County Landfill

Phase I and
Phase II Interim
Measures

To be Determined



The Question and Answer column will be a regular feature in the Installation Restoration Program Newsletter. In this issue the results of the community interviews are highlighted. Typical questions asked during the community interviews are presented below. We request the community to direct any questions regarding the environmental investigations and the Installation Restoration Program to Robert Stellar at the Public Affairs Office, (912) 673-4714. Questions will be addressed in regular mailings of this Newsletter.

What is the Installation Restoration Program?

For several decades, the mission of the Navy has required the use, handling, storage, and disposal of toxic and hazardous materials. In the past, few regulations guided operations involving these materials and little was known about their long-term effects on human health and the environment.

Since 1975 the Department of Defense has given priority to properly managing its hazardous materials. The Installation Restoration Program was established to identify and address contamination resulting from past practices, which do not meet today's environmental standards.

Under the Installation Restoration Program, environmental investigation and cleanups follow a step-by-step approach as required by law. In general, the steps are to:

- identify potential sites or contaminated areas,
- determine the type and extent of contamination through detailed investigations,
- evaluate cleanup actions or alternatives, and
- design and construct the selected cleanup action.

These steps are conducted in accordance with two Federal environmental laws, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). At Submarine Naval Base the environmental cleanup is following the RCRA regulations (the RCRA Corrective Action Process is shown on page 5).

Why is the surface water in the neighborhood ditches rust colored and is the Navy investigating this?

Yes, the Navy is investigating the rust colored water in the neighborhood ditches. Investigations indicate that rust color results from algae and iron in the water. This situation is quite common and not harmful. The investigation of the rust colored water is not related to the investigations in the landfill.

After the groundwater is cleaned up, will there be residual contamination in the soils?

Presently, the Navy knows that the groundwater is affected in the area of the landfill and in a west-northwest direction under the Crooked River Plantation Subdivision. The supplemental investigations described on page 2, are designed to determine the level of contamination, if any, in surface soils, subsurface soils, sediments, surface water, and air. The results of these investigations will be included in the RFI Report expected to be completed in late 1995. Corrective measures for any contamination found in the soils, sediments, surface water and air will be evaluated, along with the measures for cleaning up the groundwater, in the overall Corrective Action Plan for the site.

What is the location of the plume?

The location of the plume has not changed since the last public information session in September 1993. Results of the groundwater data collected to date are included in the Interim RCRA Facility Investigation Report (December 1993) which is available for review at the Information Repository or contact the Public Affairs Office. Presently, data from groundwater monitoring events are being evaluated and interpreted. As new information is available, results will be communicated through this newsletter or other appropriate methods.



What is the current schedule of anticipated activities?

The current schedule of anticipated activities in the RCRA Corrective Action process is illustrated in the timeline on page 2. The top timeline shows the activities for the overall cleanup process and the middle one shows the activities for the interim measure process. The bottom timeline illustrates that the interim measure or Phase I pilot scale test will start in the Spring of 1994 and will continue through the Phase II Interim Measure until cleanup is complete.

How do the risks associated with exposure to groundwater compare to other familiar life situations?

The Screening Risk evaluation was performed to quantify the risk to the residents of the Crooked River Plantation Subdivision from exposure to the chemicals in the groundwater. Using a methodology approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the cancer and non-cancer risks were evaluated for children and adults.

EPA suggests an acceptable risk range of 1 to 100 in a million people. Other activities that increase risk of cancer by one chance in a million include the following:

- smoking 1.4 cigarettes
- flying 6,000 miles by jet
- taking one chest X-ray in a good hospital
- living 2 months with a cigarette smoker
- eating 100 charcoal-broiled steaks
- drinking 30 12-ounce cans of diet soda
- living 20 years near a polyvinyl chloride plant
- living 150 years within 20 miles of a nuclear power plant
- risk of accident by living within 5 miles of a nuclear reactor for 50 years

The source of this information is adapted from R. Wilson, *Analyzing the Risks of Daily Life, Technology Review*, 81 (1979). See also R. Wilson and E.A.C. Crouch, *Risk Assessment and Comparison: An Introduction, Science*, 236, 267-270 (1987).

What technologies are being tested to clean up the groundwater?

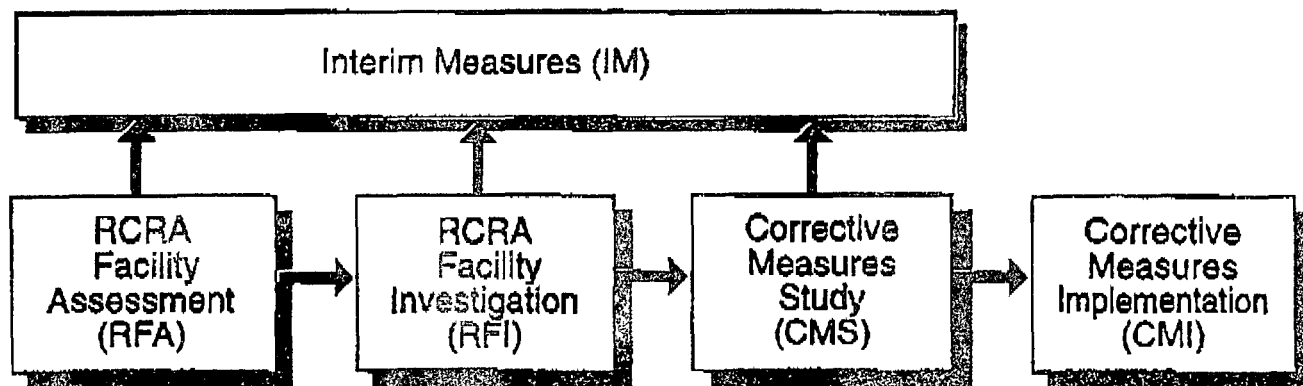
The following groundwater treatment technologies are being tested during the interim measure:

- **Air Stripping** - in a completely closed system, the air stripping process uses simple equipment to transfer chemicals from the water into air. The contaminants in the air will then be removed from the air with activated carbon. The activated carbon will then be treated offsite to remove the contaminants.
- **Biological Treatment** - the system will use harmless bacteria to destroy the contaminants, similar to how bacteria were used to clean up the Alaskan oil spill. The bacteria will be contained in an apparatus known as a rotating biological contactor. This unit will continuously expose the bacteria to the contaminated groundwater and to nutrients which will maximize the removal of contaminants.

The treated groundwater will meet all applicable local, Federal, and State requirements before it is discharged to the local land application system or publically-owned treatment works (POTW). For more information on the interim measure, see the fact sheet entitled *Containing and Cleaning Up Contaminated Groundwater from the Old County Landfill*, available from the Public Affairs Office.



The RCRA Corrective Action Process



INSTALLATION RESTORATION (IR) PROGRAM

Before federal environmental cleanup laws were passed by Congress, the Department of Defense developed a proactive program to address the environmental conditions created by releases of hazardous substances, or contaminants, from past spills and disposal practices. The Installation Restoration (IR) Program is an environmental program of investigation and cleanup being conducted at military installations nationwide.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA) provide a regulatory framework for the proper management of solid and hazardous wastes. This federal law established a tracking system for hazardous wastes from its generation through its ultimate disposal. It also provides for a permitting system for facilities that treat, store, and dispose of hazardous waste to ensure proper operation.

The 1984 amendments greatly expanded the scope of RCRA to require cleanups, or corrective actions, at facilities that are seeking or subject to a RCRA permit, whenever hazardous substances are released into the environment. The RCRA corrective action process identifies solid waste management units, determines

the type and extent of contamination, and identifies and evaluated appropriate solutions, or corrective measures to clean up the site.

Structure of the IR Program at Kings Bay

Under the IR Program, the Navy facilities conduct environmental cleanup activities through a proactive, step-by-step approach, from initial site identification through selection of cleanup actions. In accordance with RCRA regulations, the cleanup process follows the steps outlined above.

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)

The TRC consists of federal, state, and local regulatory agency representative, community representatives, and military representatives. The function of the TRC is to maintain a dialogue with technically-knowledgeable individuals to help ensure that the studies and ultimate cleanup measures address all environmental and community concerns during the corrective action process.

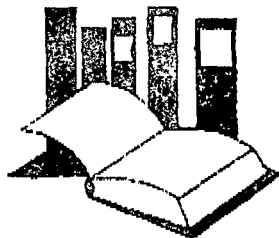


INFORMATION REPOSITORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FILE

The Information Repository and the Administrative Record are files of documents which invite public access to the IR Program reports and supporting materials. The Information Repository contains site information, program activities and findings. The Administrative Record includes documents which support site cleanup decisions, including input from the public comment periods.

At Submarine Naval Base, the Information Repository and Administrative Record are being established. Presently, the documents are being indexed and it is expected to be available in April 1994. The Information Repository will be available for viewing at:

St. Marys Public Library
100 Herb Bauer Drive
St. Marys, Georgia 31558
Telephone: (912) 882-4800



Library Hours are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 to 5:00
Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 to 8:00
Saturday: 10:00 to 12:00 noon
Sunday: CLOSED

For more information on the Information Repository, refer to the fact sheet entitled, *The Availability of Public Information About Installation Restoration Program Activities*, available from the Public Affairs Office.

WHERE TO GO FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information or to be added to the mailing list for future mailouts, contact:

Robert Steller, Public Affairs Officer
Naval Submarine Base
Kings Bay, Georgia
(912) 673-4714

Public Affairs Office
Naval Submarine Base
Kings bay, Georgia 31547

METRO

Navy negotiates to settle hazardous waste charges

By Steve Patterson

Staff writer

The Navy has agreed to spend \$151,000 to settle state charges that Jacksonville's Naval Aviation Depot mismanaged hazardous industrial waste.

It's apparently the first time Florida has levied a hazardous waste fine against the Navy.

"We want them to comply with the regulations, the same way everybody else does," said Ashwin Patel, who runs the Department of Environmental Protection's hazardous waste office in Jacksonville.

Federal agencies had been immune from some environmental penalties until October 1992.

DEP inspected Jacksonville Naval Air Station four months later and reported finding a series of problems at the depot, including:

- About 100 tanks and containers of waste from a closed electroplating facility were stored and forgotten in the building when it was closed in 1985. They were rediscovered in August 1992, when the

Navy was planning to tear down the building. The Navy told DEP of the discovery in September 1992.

- At a storage building where the depot kept debris such as used solvents, "there were a lot of discrepancies" in identifying which items were dangerous. Several 55-gallon drums containing hazardous waste had labels that said they weren't hazardous.

- Two pallets full of used lithium batteries had been labeled as hazardous waste, then someone removed the hazard warnings when the batteries were moved elsewhere.

The depot remedied the problems, but Patel said it is still resolving permitting issues raised by the forgotten electroplating waste.

A depot spokesman said it is more careful these days.

"What this has resulted in is constructive improvements," spokesman Joe Sarver said.

The Navy admitted no wrongdoing in a settlement it negotiated with DEP.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1994

SECTION **B**

★★

METRO

CALL BOX **3**
BILL FOLEY **4**



— Leah Shahum/staff

Joe Hopkins stands on the banks of the St. Marys at the Toledo settlement 15 miles south of Folkston. He leads op-

position to the National Park Service's recommendation to designate the St. Marys as a "wild and scenic" river.

Who can protect the river?

Feds' idea doesn't float with locals

By Leah Shahum
Staff writer

ST. MARYS, Ga. — Living and playing on the St. Marys River is like a perfect dream, say the river's supporters.

Its sandy, white cliffs, abundant wild-life, and clean, black waters are quickly becoming a scarcity elsewhere in the nation. The winding river springs out of the Okefenokee Swamp and, virtually untouched by development, forms part of the Florida-Georgia border.

That provides peaceful recreation for fishermen, boaters and swimmers — not to mention the river's six endangered species, including the bald eagle, Florida manatee and brown pelican.

"Once you get the swamp water in your blood, it's hard to get it out," says lifelong Folkston resident Jackie Carter.

But residents fear their dream could be shattered by the federal govern-

ment's efforts to preserve the pristine river.

The National Park Service has tentatively recommended that about 72 miles of the 126-mile river be incorporated into the national wild and scenic river system, a designation shared by only 140 rivers in the continental United States.

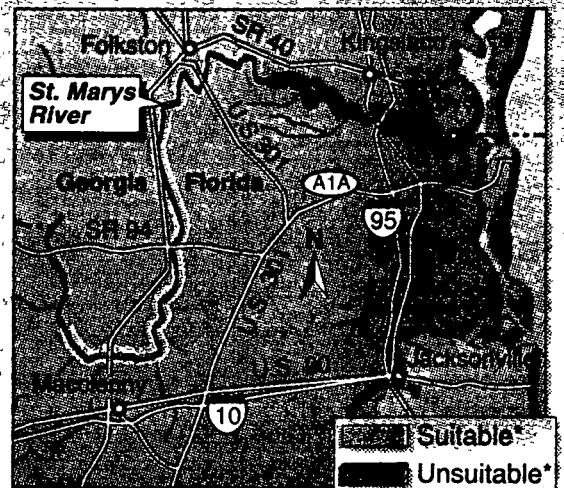
Joe Cooley, a landscape architect with the National Park Service's southeast regional office in Atlanta, says the designation would make the area eligible for federal funds to create a long-term local management plan for the river. It also would ban federal projects, such as damming or dredging, he said.

But during a three-year study, many citizens of the area have made it clear that they don't want "their river" becoming part of what they consider cumbersome federal bureaucracy.

(See RESIDENTS, Page B-3)

Wild and scenic?

The National Park Service will decide in the next couple of weeks whether to make part of the St. Marys River a "wild and scenic river." The designation would put the river basin under Park Service control, with local management.



* For wild and scenic designation, according to Park Service

— Desi Aragon/staff

Residents along St. Marys worried about plan

(From Page B-1)

"We don't need them," said Dean Woehrle, of Callahan. "If the river is being controlled locally and is in good shape, which it is, why change it?"

Woehrle is a member of the St. Marys River Management Committee, which was formed in an agreement among the four counties touched by the river — Camden and Charlton counties in Georgia and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida.

The committee, as well as two county commissions in the area that have discussed the issue, opposes the wild and scenic designation, preferring to keep the St. Marys River under local control.

The National Park Service is accepting public comment on the issue until Thursday. After the public hearing, the park service will make a final recommendation to Congress.

Most of the letters the National Park Service has received so far are in support of the designation, Cooley said. But a majority of local citizens who attended public hearings in the past three years were opposed to the wild and scenic designation, he said.

Their greatest fear is that the National Park Service will take private

land along the river, said Folkston native Joe Hopkins, co-chairman of the river management committee.

History shows that people in the area have some reason to be suspicious of the federal government's interest in land. Many lost their land and important tax bases when the Okefenokee Swamp was designated as a national park and Cumberland Island as a national seashore.

The federal government owns 35 percent of Charlton County, one of the biggest counties in Georgia, said Jackie Carter, chairman of the Charlton County Board of Commissioners and a member of the river management committee.

"It just keeps adding up," Carter said. "We don't mind having our fair share to give toward the future, but how much is our fair share?"

But citizens shouldn't expect the past to repeat itself this time, said Wallace Brittain, chief of the conservation assistance branch of the National Park Service's southeast regional office.

A wild and scenic designation is designed to protect the river, whereas the federal government's interest in the Okefenokee and the Cumberland Islands is preservation, which has much more impact on the land, he said.

"We prefer to protect the river

without [land] acquisition," Brittain said.

Only a small fraction of land has been taken over by the park service during the 25-year history of the wild and scenic program, he said.

The National Park Service suggests local groups support the study's recommendation on the condition that any legislation would protect privately owned land. That way, local groups could manage the river with financial help from the national level.

That assurance isn't enough for Hopkins. What may seem like a promise from the government now could be reversed by members of Congress in a few years, he said.

"The power to amend is very great," Hopkins said. "Nothing is ever etched in stone when it's passed by the legislature, as we all know."

Speediness is crucial to preserve the purity of the river, say supporters of the wild and scenic designation for the St. Marys.

While local groups' management has helped maintain the river's admirable quality until now, they say the population increases expected in nearby areas, particularly in Camden County, could be more than locals could handle.

H. Winifred Stephenson of Kingsland would like to plan for what

she sees as an inevitable flood of use and development on the river. Her group, the Friends of the St. Marys River, supports the National Park Service's recommendation.

"It would mean that we'd have the local knowledge, the local network and the clout and enforcement of the national level," she said.

The US Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 to recognize and protect rivers as natural treasures. Florida and Georgia each have one river designated as wild and scenic — the Loxahatchee River in Florida and the Chattooga River in Georgia.

Former Rep. Charles Bennett of Jacksonville sponsored the bill to study the St. Marys River in 1990. No congressional member has officially adopted the issue since Bennett retired, though Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., has expressed interest in handling the possible bill, Brittain said.

In the end, both groups agree they're working toward the same goal for the St. Marys River.

Carter says most people in the area think the most qualified people to make decisions about the St. Marys River are the those who know it best, the locals.

"Who's better to take care of your house — you or somebody that comes by once in a while?" Carter asked. "And this is our house."